

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2010

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

First, we applaud your remarks in the State of the Union that the United States needs to build “a new generation of safe, clean nuclear power plants.” As nuclear energy supplies more than 70 percent of the electricity generated by sources that do not emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, we agree with you that safe nuclear power must play an increasingly important role in meeting our rising energy demand and ensuring cleaner air. We also recognize that there are many hurdles to realizing a significant expansion of nuclear power, including financial and regulatory challenges, workforce issues, the development of new technologies, and ensuring the safety and longevity of the current fleet, to name a few.

We are encouraged that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) currently is reviewing applications for 22 new reactors to be built over the next ten to twenty years. However, we recognize that there will be challenges ahead. The Administration’s 2011 budget request increasing loan volume to \$54.5 billion is an important catalyst to accelerate construction of new nuclear plants, but we need to continue to hear from utilities and investors as to what else is needed to get the first of the new generation of plants off the ground.

To address the myriad challenges ahead, we propose that the White House partner with us to co-sponsor a nuclear energy summit. This summit would be a meeting of key leaders, stakeholders, and innovators to discuss and plan for nuclear energy’s future. We believe that the White House’s support will be crucial to convene the right leaders in the U.S. Government and the private sector to develop a strategy to ensure that nuclear power plays a necessary and vital role in our national energy and environmental policy.

We recognize your commitment to finding the solutions to our nation’s energy challenges and look forward to attendance and support by several members of your leadership team, including Energy Secretary Steven Chu, NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson. The attendees at this summit will be senior executives representing the commercial energy industry and related industrial sectors and government, including Congress, the White House, the Department of Energy and its national laboratories such as Idaho National Laboratory, the NRC, and the EPA. We would also like to

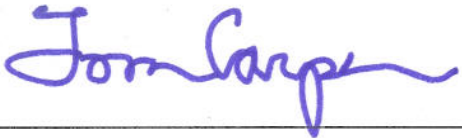
include leaders in the investment community, such as Bill Gates, who have the financial wherewithal to steer markets and interest in potential investments in new nuclear-related technologies.

Among the issues this summit should address are:

- The development of a 50-year strategy to ensure that nuclear power continues to play a vital role in our domestic energy supply;
- The major initiatives that are currently underway or contemplated for the nation and the extent to which these set the stage for the nuclear energy strategy;
- The responsibilities of government and the private sector in fulfilling a new nuclear strategy; and
- The possible creation of an industry/government working group that will provide advice and counsel to key government agencies that will help ensure resources and efforts are effectively implemented to execute a national nuclear energy policy.

We would appreciate your views on co-sponsoring such a summit, which we think would be beneficial to be held within the next 3-4 months, as well as your suggestions for principal coordinators and attendees. Forging a new future for nuclear power generation is vital to our nation's security and energy needs, and we look forward to working with you on this endeavor.

Sincerely,





Mary Gandhi

David Vitt

Laura Alexander

Amy Klobuchar

Mike Cryer

Jim Webb

Mark R. Warner

Jim Clabber

Jay Lewin